

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allah,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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Introduction

In the Name of God, all praises be to Him, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful; our creator and the creator of the universe.

This book has been written in a humble attempt to help settle some of the common doubts and misconceptions people have about the great religion of Islam. A religion that has captured the hearts of hundreds of millions of people around the world and answered their questions about the unseen.

It is hoped that, with the simple explanation of the topics in this book, I can reach the inner conscience of all brothers and sisters in humanity and show them the truth about the final religion that has been revealed to mankind.

I pray that God blesses this endeavor and forgives me for any shortcomings.

For any comments please do not hesitate to contact me at:

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What is Islam?

Islam means “surrender and submission of one’s will to the will of Almighty God” in sincere obedience and peace. It is the last religion and the final message sent by God to all of mankind in order to guide them to the right path: to worship and resort to Him Alone, without ascribing to Him any partners or taking any intercessors to communicate with Him. God conveyed His religion of Islam by sending down His revealed scripture, the Qur’an, to His beloved and last chosen Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ, through the angel Gabriel. Muhammad ﷺ taught and exemplified Islam to his followers through the teaching of the Qur’an and through his actions, sayings and noble moral conduct.

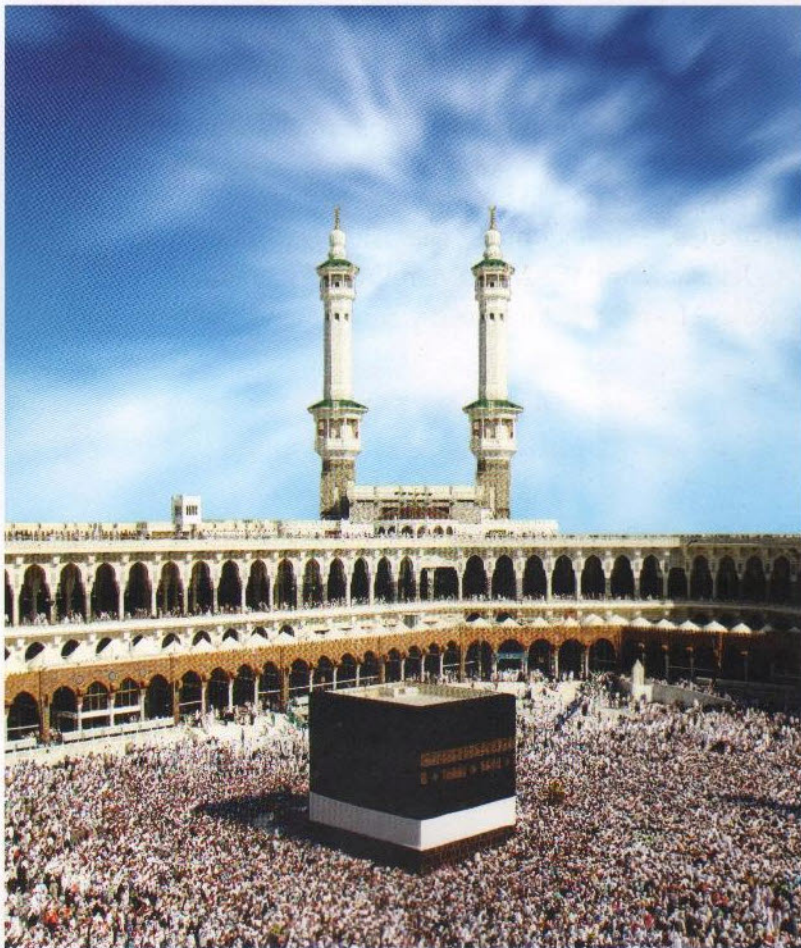
The great English playwright, Sir George Bernard Shaw, wrote:

I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make it self appeal to every age.¹

¹ George Bernard Shaw, The Genuine Islam, vol. 1, p. 8, 1936.

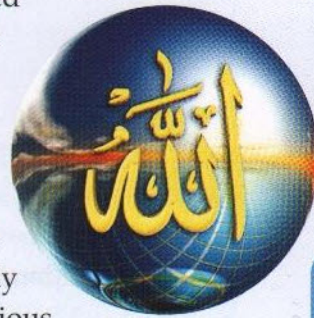
Chapter 1. What is Islam?

Chapter 2. Who is Allah?



Who is Allah?

Allah literally means “The Worshipped One” and refers to God in the Arabic language. It is a name by which Muslims and even Arab Christians call Him. “Allah” is one of the names that God has mentioned for Himself throughout His revelation. These names are descriptive definitions of His Divine Essence and Holy Attributes. For example, the Most Gracious (*Ar-Rahman*) and the Most Merciful (*Ar-Rahim*), refer to His infinite kindness and mercy.



The name of Allah
written in Arabic

Allah said in His Book:

﴿هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيِّبُ الْعَزِيزُ
الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٣١﴾ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَلِيقُ الْبَارِئُ
الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

He is Allah, besides Whom none has the right to be worshipped but He. (He is) the King, the Holy, the One Free from all defects, the Giver of security, the Watcher over His creatures, the All-Mighty, the Compeller, the Supreme. Glory be to Allah! (High is He) above all that they associate (with Him). He is Allah, the Creator, the Inventor of all things, the Bestower of forms. To Him belong the Best Names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorify Him. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.²

² The Qur'an, *Surah Al-Hashr* [59]:23-24.

The Oneness of God

Does He need partners?

Throughout history, as people came to believe in God's existence, they wondered how to reach out to Him and how to worship Him. Some worshiped Him directly and some used a mediator, while others combined partners with Him. They were lost and needed guidance. So Almighty God provided guidance for worshiping Him alone by sending His prophets with revealed scriptures. It is up to the human race to follow the right path and reach the conclusion of the existence of the One and only God.

﴿بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ۝ تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ ۝ إِلَيْكَ نَعْبُدُ ۝ وَإِلَيْكَ نَسْتَعِثُ ۝ اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ۝﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All the praises and thanks are to Allah, the Lord of the worlds (of men and *Jinn*). The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. The only Owner of the Day of Recompense. You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and every thing). Guide us to the Straight Way. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.⁹

If we look at our day-to-day activities, we will find that, in order to run any entity successfully, such as a country, institute, or a company, one mind or leader is needed. How is it that we can reach this conclusion in our earthly life, but fail to reach it in our

spiritual belief?

It would be impossible to run a country or a company with two presidents or two kings; nothing would get accomplished, one person needs to take a stand and make ultimate decisions in order to avoid chaos. Otherwise, decisions would always be challenged by the other, causing a split in management and authority. "too many cooks spoil the broth".¹⁰ With this being the general rule, then how could it be assumed that the Omnipotent and Almighty God would take partners in the running of the universe?!

﴿مَا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ مِنْ وَلَدٍ وَمَا كَانَ مَعَهُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِذَا أَذْهَبَ كُلَّ إِلَهٍ بِمَا خَلَقَ وَلَعَلَّ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ

سُبْحَنَ اللَّهُ عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ ۝ عَلِيمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَتَعَلَّلَ عَمَّا يَشْرِكُونَ ۝﴾

No son (or offspring) did Allah beget, nor is there any deity besides Him. (If there had been many gods), then each god would have taken away what he had created, and some would have tried to overcome others! Glorified is Allah above all that they attribute to Him!. All-Knower of the unseen and the seen! Exalted is He over all that they associate as partners to Him!¹¹

﴿بَدِيعُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ۝﴾

The Originator of the heavens and the earth. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it: "Be!" and it is.¹²

Suppose one does believe that God has taken another deity alongside Himself. Would not the world as we know it be chaotic and devoid of the precision and perfection of human life that we are privileged to enjoy everyday?

﴿اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ۝﴾

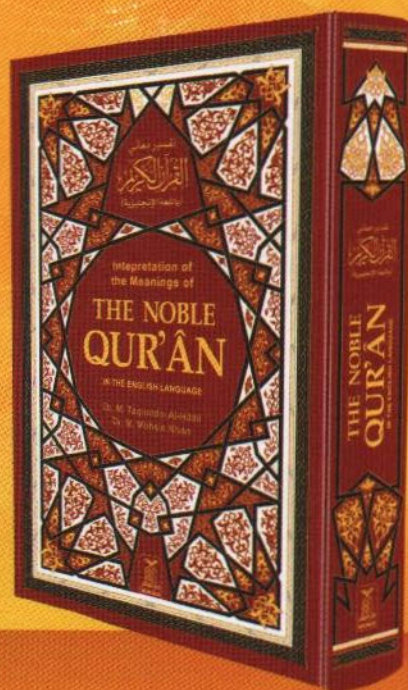
Allah! None has the right to be worshipped but He! (He is) the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who

¹⁰ A famous saying.

¹¹ The Qur'an, Surah Al-Muminun [23]:91-92.

¹² The Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqara [2]:117.

⁹ The Qur'an, Surah Al-Fatiha [1]:1-7.



Chapter 3. What is the Qur'an?

What is the Qur'an?

The Holy Qur'an is a Sacred Book. It is the speech of God that was sent down to all mankind for the sole purpose of guiding them to the straight path of acknowledging God's Oneness and dedicating their acts of worship exclusively to Him.



﴿إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّذِي هُوَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا﴾

Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward (in Paradise).²¹

God revealed the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, via the Angel Gabriel, in stages as circumstances warranted over a period of twenty three years. Throughout its 114 Chapters (*Surah's*) are discussed issues of belief, the proof of

²¹ The Qur'an, *Surah Al-Isra* [17]:9.

Is Jesus God? Is he a God?

Believing that Jesus ﷺ is God could be due to many misinterpreted facts. Is it because Jesus ﷺ was born a miraculous birth without any male intervention? Then what about Prophet Adam ﷺ? Was not he created more miraculously since he was created without any male or female intervention? What about Eve? Wasn't she also created more miraculously since she was created from Adam's ﷺ rib without any female intervention! Adam ﷺ from mud and eve from a rib; how miraculous is that! Both were created as adults, which is by itself a miracle.

Looking at the creation of Adam ﷺ (without male or female) and Eve (without a female) we discover that there should be a third and final link to this miraculous circle of creation, in which God closed it by the creation of Jesus ﷺ without a male. How are these miracles any different from each other? Are they not miracles from God and God Alone? If God can make the universe and all that lies in it, can He not produce a single human from what He wishes?

﴿وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ إِذَا أَنْتُمْ بَشَرٌ تَنْتَشِرُونَ﴾

And among His Signs is this, that He created you (Adam) from dust, and then Eve from Adam's rib, and then his offspring from the semen, and behold you are human beings scattered! ⁴²

﴿إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ خَلَقَهُ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ﴾

Verily, the likeness of Jesus before Allah is the likeness of Adam.

He created him from dust, then (He) said to him: "Be!" and he was. ⁴³

Is it because Jesus ﷺ performed miracles, such as bringing the dead to life or healing the blind or even talking when he was a baby, that he is considered divine? Such miracles were granted to Prophet Jesus ﷺ by God Almighty. If we believe in Noah ﷺ and the many years he lived (950 years), then we should ask ourselves, how could he live so long? Was that not given to him by God?

What about Moses ﷺ and his famous miracle of splitting the sea, was not that given to him by God?

What about Jonas ﷺ being in the belly of the whale without being digested? Who saved him? Was it not God?

What about Solomon ﷺ? Did he not control the wind and the animals? Did he not understand the language of the animals? Who gave him all these miracles? Was it not God? Although all these prophets had been given special powers during their time on earth, they were all human. None of the prophets ever claimed to be God or the son of God or the spirit of God. And nor did Jesus ﷺ.

﴿فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ اضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ الْبَحْرَ فَانْفَلَقَ فَكَانَ كُلُّ فِرْقٍ كَالطَّوْدِ الْعَظِيمِ ۚ وَأَزَلْنَا تَمَّ الْآخَرِينَ ۚ وَأَوْحَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَمَنْ مَعَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ ۖ ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخَرِينَ ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ۚ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُو الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

Then We revealed to Moses saying: "Strike the sea with your stick." And it parted, and each separate part of the sea water became like huge mountain. Then We brought near the others (Pharaoh's party) to that place. And we saved Moses and all those with him. Then We drowned the others. Verily, in this is indeed a sign (or a proof), yet most of them are not believers. And verily your Lord He is truly, the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful. ⁴⁴

Each prophet came with miracles to convince his followers that he was a messenger sent by God in order to guide them to the straight and correct path. These miracles suited the people at

⁴³ The Qur'an, Surah Al-Imran [3]:59.

⁴⁴ The Qur'an, Surah Ash-Shuara [26]:63-68.

⁴² The Qur'an, Surah Ar-Rum [30]:20.

Chapter 9. How to enter Islam

How to enter Islam



It is very simple to become a Muslim. One has to simply declare with sincerity and belief "*La Ilaha Illallah Muhammadu Rasoolullah*" which means that there is only One True God (Allah) and to worship Him alone without a partner and to resort to Him directly without a mediator; and that Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger (Prophet). Upon saying these words (Testimony of faith) you have entered the faith of Islam which derives and concludes that you believe in:

1. All the prophets sent by God as guidance to the Straight Path, and they were all human beings including Jesus ﷺ.
2. All the original books the (Torah, the gospel) and the Qur'an are the literal words of God.
3. All of the Angels are created by God and how they also worship God and follow His command.
4. The Day of Judgment when all will be held accountable for their actions.
5. In *Qadar* (Fate, Divine Predestination), which means belief in God's will (Destiny) the bad and good of it.



Chapter 11.

Answers to common questions

Answers to common questions

Why do women
veil in Islam?



To veil means to cover one's modesty. Men and women in Islam cover their body by wearing loose clothing, following the command of God Almighty who commanded that women should cover their body from their shoulders to their ankle including their hair, whenever in the presence of strange men (husband or blood relative not included). But when in the presence of other women they can show everything except what is between the knees and the navel. In the presence of their husbands, there are no limitations or restrictions.

Men are also commanded to cover their body between the knee and the navel, except in the presence of the wife. The command of God for the woman to cover is not limited to Islam. The same command from God was revealed to all three major world religions. The evidence of that could be seen:

- 1) In the statues and drawings of Mary where you can notice she is always covered and wearing a veil.
- 2) In the way the nuns dress and cover their hair.
- 3) In the way most religious (Orthodox) Jewish women cover

Also, in Africa, men still practice polygamy. Islam, on the other hand, laid down definite restrictions and conditions for polygamy. It limited the maximum number of wives to four.

﴿وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُقْسِطُوا فِي الْبَيْنِ فَاذْكُرُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَتَى وَتِلْكَ وَرِثَةُ الْإِنْسَانِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ خِفَتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْلَمُوا أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ذَلِكَ آدَبُ الْإِنْسَانِ أَلَّا تَعْلَمُوا﴾

Marry women of your choice, two or three or four; but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one.⁷⁴

Those who had more than four wives at the time of embracing Islam were required to divorce the additional wives. Islam further reformed the institution of polygamy by mandating equal treatment of all wives. A Muslim has to be fair in his treatment to his wives. He is not permitted to differentiate between his wives in regards to sustenance, expenditures, time and other obligations of husbands.

As a way of life, Islam is in harmony with nature, providing humans solutions to complex situations and avoiding extremes. This characteristic of Islam can be observed most clearly in its stand concerning the taking of more than one wife. Islam permits a Muslim man to marry more than one woman in order to resolve some very pressing human problems, individual as well as social. Examples of such social problems could be seen when the number of women in the world exceeds that of men.

Population	Male	Female
RUSSIA	41.6 %	53.9%
UK	48.6%	51.5%
USA	48.8%	51.2%
BRAZIL	49.7%	50.27%

[The New Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 17, pp. 34, 270, 244]

The surplus of women is a result of men dying from wars, violent crimes, and from women outliving men. Bertrand Russell writes:

⁷⁴ The Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa [4] : 3.

Why men can marry more than one wife in Islam?

This question is one of those questions most asked about Islam. Even before one answers, it ought to be known that Islam was not the inventor of polygamy. Polygamy was known and practiced by many civilizations and religions prior to Islam and is still being practiced in many parts of the non-Muslim world. In some places, non-Muslim men are permitted to marry to a host of women whose number reaches tens and sometimes hundreds, without any condition or restriction. In United States, for example, Mormons practice Polygamy as do Jews in modern Israel.

The Jewish law permits us to have as many wives as we can get. Nowadays, a Muslim has to limit himself to four wives in this world, but we Jews have no such constrictions.⁷²

When a wife cannot bear children or is mentally ill, the rabbis give a husband the right to marry a second woman without divorcing his first wife.⁷³

⁷² Israel Shamir, Maidens and Warriors, 16 December 2001.

⁷³ Peggy Fletcher Stack, Globally, Polygamy Is Commonplace, The Salt Lake Tribune, 20 Sep. 1998.